

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 00830 202105Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00

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R 201955Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6745

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PDEV BF

SUBJ: PDP LEADER KILLED

1. ALFRED DAVID BUTLER, LEADER OF THE SPLINTER PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP), WAS SHOT AND KILLED MAY 17. BUTLER WAS MINDING CASH REGISTER FOR A STORE OWNER FRIEND WHO WAS CHECKING STOCK WHEN TWO MASKED GUNMEN ENTERED STORE. BUTLER AND GUNMEN EXCHANGED (APPARENTLY INAUDIBLE) WORDS, SINGLE SHOT WAS FIRED AND GUNMEN FLED WITHOUT OPENING CASH REGISTER. FACT THAT NO MONEY TAKEN HAS LED SOME LOCAL OBSERVERS TO SPECULATE THAT POLITICAL MOTIVE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED, BUT MORE BALANCED VIEWS REGARD KILLING AS PART OF ABORTIVE ROBBERY. POLITICAL LEADERS FROM ACROSS SPECTRUM ARE EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND OUTRAGE. LEADING LOCAL NEWSPAPER HAS CALLED FOR MANDATORY LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR ALL ARMED ROBBERS AND RAPISTS IN WAKE OF KILLING.

2. BUTLER WAS AN ORGANIZER FOR THE RULING PROGRESSIVE LIBERAL PARTY (PLP) FOR MANY YEARS AND A SUPPORTER OF DPM ARTHUR HANNA (WITH WHOSE FAMILY HE REMAINED ON CLOSE TERMS DESPITE EVENTUAL POLITICAL DIFFERENCES). BUTLER LEFT PLP IN 1973 AND, WITH SUCH POLITICAL BRIDESMAIDS AS SAM WILKINSON, FORMED PDP SOON THEREAFTER. BUTLER HAD LITTLE SUCCESS IN ORGANIZING SUPPORT FOR NEW GROUP, BUT RECENTLY ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY BY CRITICIZING PLP FOR NEGLECT OF LOCAL ISSUES, AND WAS OFTEN PHOTO-

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CIZING PLP FOR NEGLECT OF LOCAL ISSUES, AND WAS OFTEN PHOTO-

GRAPHED POINTING TO DEFECTIVE WATER PUMPS, UNSANITARY GARBAGE
HEAPS AND OTHER ALLEGED MANIFESTATIONS OF PLP UNCONCERN FOR
POORER NASSAU AREAS.

3. WHILE RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL FIGURES ARE NOT ALLEGING POLI-
TICAL MOTIVE TO KILLING, FREE NATIONAL MOVEMENT (FNM) SPOKES-
MEN ARE SEEKING TO MAKE IT SYMBOL OF PLP INABILITY TO DEAL
WITH CRIME PROBLEM. BUTLER'S BROTHER TOLD PRESS DECEASED WAS
PLANNING TO CONVERT PDP INTO AN ORGANIZATION EXPOSING AND
RECTIFYING CORRUPTION IN RULING BAHAMIAN CIRCLES, BUT MADE
NO ALLEGATIONS ABOUT KILLING MOTIVE.
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, PDEV, BF, PDP, (BUTLER, ALFRED DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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